

Organics Infrastructure Initiative Opening Forum

February 26, 2021



CCSMM

Housekeeping

- This meeting is being recorded.
- Please rename yourself to reflect your organizational affiliation.
- In order to pose a question to any of the panelists, please type it in the chat. Our moderators will pull questions from there.
- There will be opportunity for discussion at the end of the meeting, please raise your hand or indicate in the chat if you would like to make a question or comment at that time.

Housekeeping

- Following the meeting, we will send an email to all attendees with an additional opportunity for public comment.
- The email will also include contact information for all panelists and additional resources.
- This information as well as the final agenda will also be posted on the CCSMM webpage.

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- II. Goals & Scope of the Organics Infrastructure Initiative
- III. Permitting Support & Plans to Streamline Current Organics Processing Infrastructure and Opportunities
- IV. Organics Processing Facilities – Developers' Perspectives
- V. Organics Diversion Services – Haulers' Perspectives
- VI. Incentives & Procurement Strategies for Scaling up Organics Infrastructure & Services
- VII. Next Steps, Public Comment

Food Scraps/ Organics Collection & Diversion Working Group

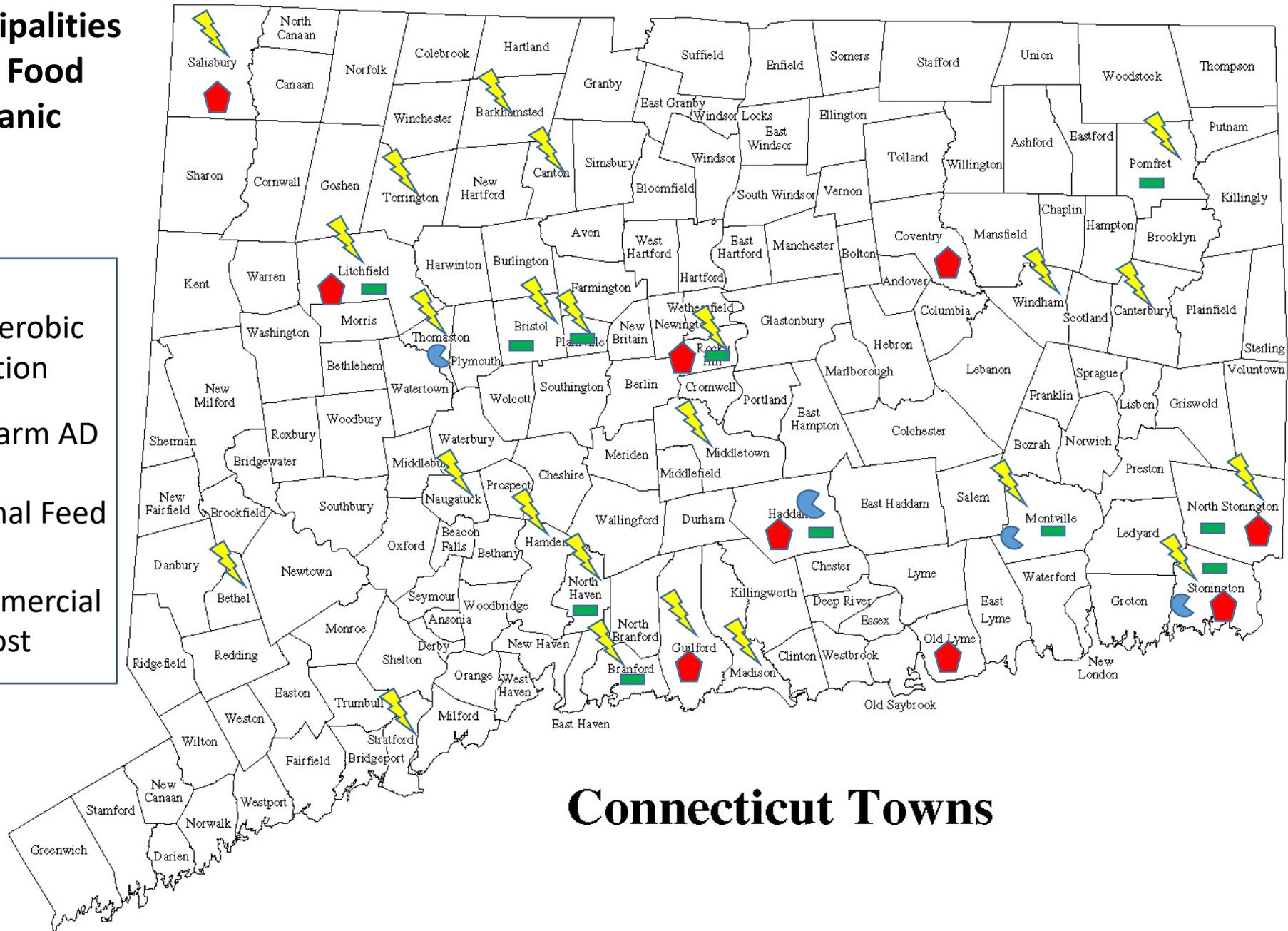
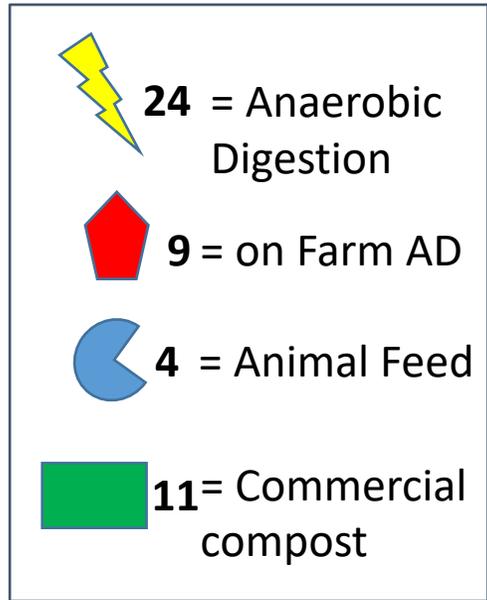


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About one-third of the municipal solid waste stream consists of food scraps, yard waste, and other organic material. Tip fees for these materials at organics processing facilities are generally lower than at WTE or landfills, but transportation costs can be a barrier. Key steps needed in 2021 to secure accessible, affordable organics infrastructure:

1. Organics Infrastructure Initiative
 - a. Developers/ stakeholder conference
2. Identify potential host sites for organics infrastructure around the state
3. DEEP streamline permitting for anaerobic digesters (AD), compost facilities
4. DEEP conduct RFPs for long-term contracts for AD facilities
5. Ensure a predictable supply of feedstock for developers by:
 - a. Strengthening the diversion requirement for large commercial generators of organic material
 - b. Working with municipalities (including in regional groups) to implement residential organics diversion programs

CCSMM Municipalities Willing to Host Food Waste and Organic Processing Infrastructure



Connecticut Towns

Proposed Goals of this Initiative

CCSMM is launching an Organics Infrastructure Initiative to advance coordinated efforts to increase organics infrastructure and services to support processing of organic material.

1. Increase accessible, affordable organics diversion from the MSW stream
2. Facilitate municipal interest in hosting infrastructure
3. Improve the transparency, predictability, and efficiency of DEEP permitting for organics infrastructure
4. Stay informed on legislative proposals that can strengthen organics diversion

Proposed Scope of this Initiative

The proposed scope of infrastructure and services that will be addressed/ considered in the initiative, include:

- Donation programs
- Processing facilities
 - Commercial-scale anaerobic digestion
 - Commercial compost facilities
 - On-farm anaerobic digestion
 - Animal feed facilities
- Organics collection services
 - Curbside and co-collection services
 - Transfer station drop-off and technical assistance
 - Enforcement for diversion mandates

Permitting Support and Plans to Streamline Current Organics Processing Infrastructure and Opportunities

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 - 860.424.3264
- Edith Pestana, Administrator, Environmental Justice Program, CT DEEP
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- Camille Fontanella, Client Concierge Team Lead, Office of Planning and Program Development, CT DEEP
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 - 860.424.3074
- Caren Harder, Environmental Compliance Specialist 3, CT DEEP
 - caren.harder@ct.gov
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Overview of Permit Types and Options for Organics Infrastructure

- **Seek DEEP permitting assistance early**
- **Complexity, timing, and process commonly follow the size of the project**
- **Permit Categories / Options**
 - Exemptions
 - Permit by Rule / Regulations
 - Authorization / Certificate / Approval / etc.
 - General Permit
 - Individual Permit
- **Common Permit triggers**
 - Air, 15 TPY of any pollutant (Title V-25 TPY NO_x; 100 TPY CO, 100TPY particulate)
 - Waste, receiving waste from off-site
 - Water, disruption 1 acre+, discharges to a POTW

Overview of Permit types and Options for Organics Infrastructure

"Example" Organics Permitting Framework (IP-Individual Permit, GP-Genral Permit)

- **AD**
 - Air IP(NSR), Waste IP(VRP), Water GPs,
- **Composting**
 - small <5000 cuyd/yr No Air, No Waste, Water GP/Nutrient Plan
 - large >5000 cuyd/yr No Air, Waste IP, Water GPs/Nutrient Plan
- **Conversion/manufacturing (Feed Pellets)**
 - Air NSR, Waste by IP/BUD, Water GP/discharge

All projects require case specific review for feedstocks, process and emissions/discharges

For further guidance contact the DEEP permitting programs

Environmental Justice

Public Participation:

Applicants locating in an Environmental Justice community as defined by statute (22a-20a) will be required to:

- draft a public notice and engagement plan;
- Implement the plan; and
- draft a final report documenting written notices, community engagement, public meetings, etc.

• <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice>

• For further information please contact Edith Pestana at Edith.Pestana@ct.gov

Solid Waste Program Organics Current Permitting Framework

- Self-generated only – no SW permit to compost or AD
- Receipt of waste from off-site is a SW trigger
- <5000 cuyd/yr composting or AD - No solid waste permit with stormwater GP registration (by discretion)
- Leaf & grass composting – exempt by CGS 22a-208i with registration per RCSA 22a-208(a)(1)
- Municipal Transfer Station GP – 1000 TPD including food scraps & 80 cy/food & 200 cy leaf storage

Solid Waste
Program
Organics
Current
Permitting
Framework

Commercial Recycling GP – Appx F. includes organics

- 30 TPD when other wastes are managed
- 100 TPD if only waste managed

Demonstration Project per CGS aa-208a(j)

- can authorize research and trial demo's
- initial period up to 2 years
- extendable to 5 years

On Farm AD CGS 22a-208cc exemption

- on-farm, for farm with >50% CAFO waste
- can receive 5% food scraps
- Outside of exemption - SW volume reduction permit required

Solid Waste Program Organics Streamlining

Modify Commercial Recycling GP – Appendix F

- 2021 renewal (exp. extended to May 3, 2021)
- allow bulking and grinding into slurry
- throughput 100 TPD if only waste stream managed

Pursue limited quantity of food scraps at CGS 22a-208a solid waste permitted facilities,

- without modification approval, notification only
- 75 TPD throughput, 150 cy storage
- Legislative action required

Increase 5% food scrap allowance at On-Farm AD without requiring SW permit (CGS 22a-226e)

- 25%-30%
- Legislative action required

Solid Waste Program Organics Streamlining

Codify in CGS policy exempting <5000 cy/yr composting

- **food scraps, food processing residuals, soiled paper**
- **requires Nutrient Management Plan of stormwater GP**
- **consider with changes to 22a-226e**
- **Legislative action required**

Develop Municipal TS GP standards for collection of food scraps, food processing residuals, soiled paper

- **continue satellite collection point option**
- **develop specific criteria for primary and satellite sites**
- **establish guidance and website updates to assist municipal, COGs and waste authorities**
- **late Nov 2022 renewal**

Solid Waste Program Organics Streamlining

Allow addition of food scrap at leaf composting sites, and standalone food scrap composting

- develop GP for food scrap, processing residuals & soiled paper at registered leaf composting facilities
- develop GP for food scrap, residuals & soiled paper as a standalone activity
- considered tiered system: follow BMP, registration, & registration with approval

Simplify adding grass at leaf composting sites

- replace GP registration with regulation/Permit by Rule

Solid Waste Program Organics Streamlining

Useful DEEP Webpage Links:

Composting and Organics homepage:

[Composting and Organics Recycling](#)

Large-Scale Organics Management homepage:

[Large Scale Organics Management](#)

CCSMM homepage:

[CCSMM](#)

Permits and Licenses homepage:

[Permits and Licenses](#)

Solid Waste homepage:

[Solid Waste Home](#)

- **Remember to seek DEEP permit program assistance early**

Client Concierge Service

& Permit Assistance

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

PRESENTED BY CAMILLE FONTANELLA

OF THE CLIENT CONCIERGE TEAM



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

THE CLIENT CONCIERGE SERVICE

20BY20 Initiative:
Goal 12

Make improvements in
how we communicate to
our stakeholders about
DEEP's processes.

- Central Office's point-of-contact for stakeholder assistance with environmental permitting
- Facilitate communication between stakeholders and permit programs
- Guide projects through the complex permitting process



THE CLIENT CONCIERGE TEAM

Nicole Lugli
Office Director

Camille Fontanella
Concierge Team Lead

Amy Richardson
Concierge Team Member

Bea Milne
Permit Assistance

- Office of Planning and Program Development in the Office of the Commissioner
- DEEP.Concierge@ct.gov
- <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Permits-and-Licenses/Client-Concierge-Permit-Assistance>

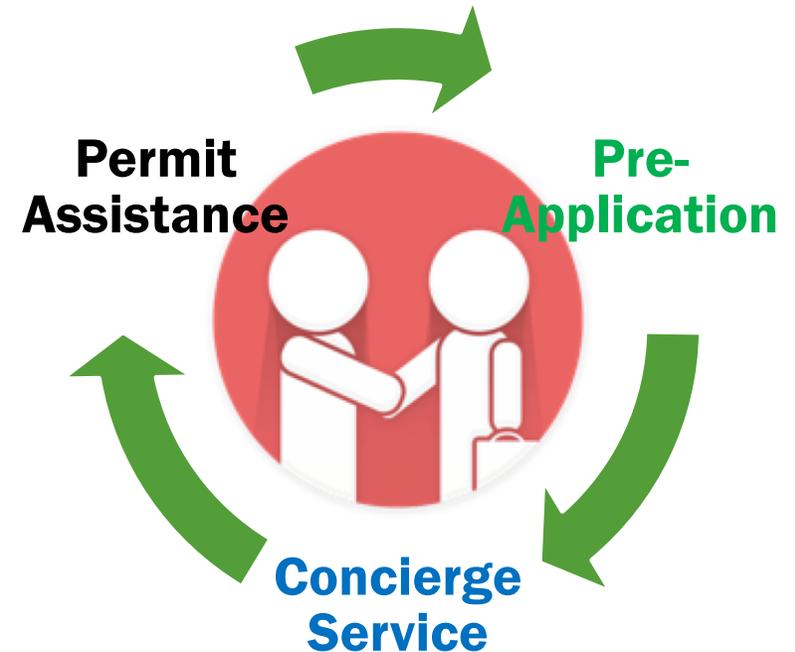
DEEP'S PERMIT ASSISTANCE

- Assists any applicant

Pre-application Assistance

- Part of permit assistance group
- Provides application assistance **before** submittal to permit program
- Pre-application Questionnaire and Guidance
- Pre-application **Meeting**
- Facilitating communication between applicant and permit staff

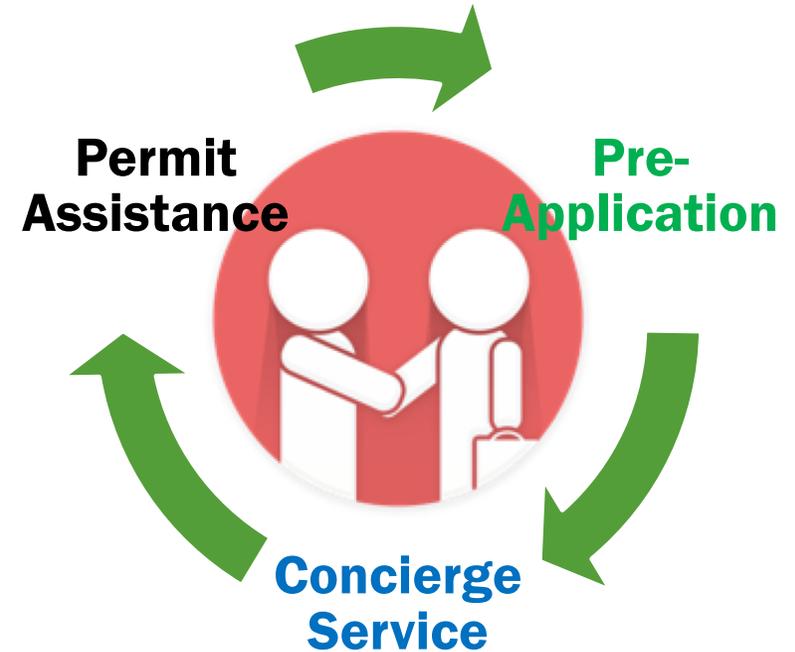
Structure



DEEP'S PERMIT ASSISTANCE

Concierge Service

- Provides specialized permit assistance **during and after** submittal to permit program for complex projects
 - Meeting coordination
 - Permit sequencing
 - Communication with permit managers and staff
 - Follow up on projects within DEEP and with other State agencies (e.g., DECD)
- Conducts outreach to stakeholders



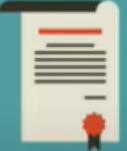
STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND COORDINATION

- Presentations to stakeholders, business organizations, and environmental advocate groups
- Dedicated web page
- Virtual Brochure - regular updates, highlighting current projects
- Concierge Video to explain service
- Permitting factsheets by sector



Search

How DEEP's Client Concierge Program works:

- 
1
Submit a pre-application questionnaire for your project to the DEEP Client Concierge Service.
- 
2
DEEP will hold a pre-application meeting with you to help submit permit applications and answer any questions.
- 
3
The Client Concierge Team will provide additional guidance and permitting assistance throughout the approval process.

1:01 / 2:00

DEEP Client Concierge Service

PERMITTING FACTSHEETS BY SECTOR

FACT SHEET



Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP>

- Solar Energy
- Offshore Wind Energy
- Farm-based Anaerobic Digesters – *ONLINE SOON!*
 - DEEP supports permitting AD facilities
 - Describes possible permits needed for Waste, Air, and Water
 - Provides processing timeframes
 - Assists with project sequencing
 - Contains public notice and environmental justice information
 - Displays submittal information

Farm-Based Anaerobic Digesters *An Environmental Permitting Factsheet*



Farm-based anaerobic digestion (AD) of manure presents an opportunity to increase renewable energy production, improve the economics of Connecticut's agricultural sector, reduce nutrient loading and associated water quality impairments, and address climate change. ADs also align with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP's) charge to conserve, improve, and protect the natural resources and the environment of the State of Connecticut, as well as to advance our efforts to generate cleaner, reliable and

more affordable energy for the people and businesses of the State. Connecticut and DEEP support the development, deployment, and operation of anaerobic digester units.

An AD is a system where bacteria biologically digests and breaks down organic material in the absence of oxygen (or "anaerobically"). ADs typically process animal manure, food scraps, and wastewater biosolids or a combination thereof. ADs produce biogas and digestate (residual solid and liquids) as

THE CLIENT CONCIERGE SERVICE

Contact:

DEEP.Concierge@ct.gov

Questions?

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Permits-and-Licenses/Client-Concierge-Permit-Assistance>

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Permits-and-Licenses/Where-to-Begin--Users-Guide-to-Environmental-Permits>

[Sign up](#) to receive email updates.

Commercial Organics Recycling Law (CGS 22a-226e)

2011 – Legislation passed with a start date of 2014; CT first state to implement a program.

Only applies to food wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, processors, supermarkets, resorts & conference centers that:

Generate 52 tons/year (1 ton per week) of source separated organics (prior to 2020 the volume was 104 tons per week) and;

Are located within 20 miles of an authorized food waste processing facility.

Compliance Assistance by DEEP

**Commercial
Organics Recycling
Law Legislation
2021**

SB 930 & HB 6503

Proposed legislation released this week:

- Currently these bills are under review by DEEP and we will be working with legislators and stakeholders on what the final language could be.
- The Department clearly supports expansion of the current organics law and the recommendations from the CCSMM

Permitting Support and Plans to Streamline Current Organics Processing Infrastructure and Opportunities

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Organics Processing Facilities – Developer's Perspectives

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- Brian Paganini, Vice President, Quantum Biopower
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 - www.quantumbiopower.com

Organics Diversion Services – Haulers’ Perspectives

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- Nick Skeadas, Community Composter, Curbside Compost
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 - <http://www.curbcompost.org/>
- Eric Fredericksen, Director, Operations, USA Hauling & Recycling
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 - 860.746.3292
 - www.usarecycle.com
- Ben Divivo, Customer Relationship Manager, Willimantic Waste
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Incentives & Procurement Strategies for Scaling up Organics Infrastructure and Services

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- Bert Hunter, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, CT Green Bank
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 - www.ctgreenbank.com
- Eric Annes, Supervising Environmental Analyst, CT DEEP
 - eric.annes@ct.gov

Thank you!

This is just the beginning of this dialogue, there are a lot of other considerations that need to happen around organics diversion and processing including:

- Efforts to reduce food waste at the source
- End-use for processed organics, consideration of soil nutrients
- Food donation
- home and community composting

We will send an email to all attendees with an additional opportunity for public comment:

- Will include contact information for all panelists and additional resources
- We will gather the questions and answers from the chat and put that together in another follow-up email

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